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RESEARCHES INTO THE ORIGIN OF THE PRIMITIVE CONSTELLATIONS OF THE GREEKS, PHŒNICIANS AND BABYLONIANS. By ROBERT BROWN, JR., F.S.A., M.R.A.S. Vol. I. London: Williams & Norgate, 1899. Pp. xvi + 361. 10s. 6d.

MR. Brown has devoted himself to this and kindred subjects for years, and in the work the first volume of which is before us the ripest fruits of his years of study will be presented. An enthusiastic student of Greek literature, deeply imbued with Semitic learning, the author has endeavored to show in his various works the Semitic influence in Greek mythology and life. His services in this field commend him to the regard of a wide circle of scholars. The book before us increases their debt to him.

Of the eight chapters of this first volume, seven are devoted to the Greek side of the subject. The Hipparcho-Ptolemy star-list is examined and its Phœnician antecedents traced; then the constellations are traced through Greek literature from Eudoxos to Homer; next the early coin types of Greece and the unnumismatic art of the Aigaion seaboard and of Asia Minor are made to bear their witness to the primitive constellations. The concluding chapter treats of Babylonian astronomy after Alexander. The astronomy of the earlier Babylonian period will fall to the second volume.

It is Mr. Brown's habit in both these works to give ancient proper names in an exact transliteration of their original spelling, from whatever language they may come. This leads at times to curious effects: thus Borsippa appears as *Barsipki*.

Of the Greek side of this work I am not able to speak. The chapter on Babylonian astronomy makes good use of both Greek and cuneiform sources, and gives excellent promise for the rest of the work, which Semitic scholars will await with interest.

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A DICTIONARY OF THE BIBLE. By JOHN D. DAVIS, PH.D., D.D., Professor of Semitic Philology and Old Testament History in the Theological Seminary at Princeton, N. J. With many New and Original Maps and Plans, and Amply Illustrated. Philadelphia: The Westminster Press, 1898. Pp. viii + 802. \$2, net.

OLD TESTAMENT ARTICLES.—The articles on the Old Testament in this volume proceed from the pen of Professor Davis, and are avowedly

and frankly conservative. The Mosaic authorship of the Pentateuch, the unity of Isaiah and of Zechariah, and the integrity and historicity of Daniel are strongly defended. Joel is placed before Ahaz; the book of Jonah is historical and may be dated before or shortly after the close of the reign of Jeroboam II. In the book of Judges all indications strongly favor its existence in the time of Samuel, even if it was not written by that prophet himself. The book of Ruth is historical, and the Song of Songs is not improbably from the hand of Solomon himself, or at least from his time.

But, on the other hand, there is no blind adherence to traditionalism for its own sake. The article on Creation compares the Babylonian account, and acknowledges that, apart from the radical defect of failing to give God the glory, the Babylonian traditions preserve fundamentally the same account of the development of the world that the Hebrew prophet does. In the article on the Flood the author holds that the description of the flood must have originated with eyewitnesses and have been handed down by tradition, and that the language of the narrative must be understood in the sense of the authors and promulgators of the story centuries before Moses. Again, the biblical classification of the hare and the rock-badger, or "coney," among ruminants is admitted to be an error based upon the observation of the ruminant-like motion of the jaws of these animals.

The author usually gives a fair, though necessarily brief, statement of the views of the critical school, together with his reasons for rejecting them. But it seems scarcely just, at this late day, to state that the real ground on which the denial of the genuineness of the last twenty-seven chapters of the book of Isaiah rests is the mention of Cyrus by name.

A few inconsistencies have been noted, such as the adoption of the spelling Masorites as well as the preferable Masoretes, and the inclusion on p. 39 of the book of Ecclesiasticus among the books which were doubtless originally written in Aramaic, while on p. 40 it is correctly said that the prologue to Ecclesiasticus implies that the book was originally written in Hebrew. It would seem that the recovery of a considerable portion of the Hebrew original of this valuable book was a fact of sufficient moment to have been mentioned at this point, and we cannot help being surprised at the omission of this fact by the author.

A careful examination of the book as a whole leads us to commend it warmly. Its conciseness and its comprehensiveness, taken together with its direct, clear statements, will make it an invaluable addition to the library of the Sunday-school teacher and the busy pastor, and even the professional Old Testament scholar will find it a convenient handbook for ready reference upon a multitude of minor points.

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NEW TESTAMENT ARTICLES.— Questions of the authorship and date of New Testament books are treated from the conservative point of view, opposing views being sometimes, but not always, referred to. Of 2 Peter it is said: "Although doubts were cherished in some quarters concerning its authorship, these are overborne by the weighty historical evidence." First Peter is said to have been written from Babylon, Rome not being mentioned. The writer of the article Gospel (Professor Purves) seems to accept a form of the oral hypothesis as to the origin of the synoptics, referring, however, to the theory of the use of Mark by the other two.

In the geographical and chronological articles account is taken of the latest discussions. The province of Galatia, in both text and maps, is made to include the four cities of the first missionary journey; but the destination of the epistle is left doubtful, with the statement that there are "serious difficulties" in the south-Galatian theory. As to the site of Capernaum both views are stated, but the arguments given are in favor of Tell Hum. The location of the Emmaus "sixty furlongs off" is left doubtful, and the map gives only the more distant one. Reference is made to the earlier dating of the events of Acts, but the common chronology is accepted.

In the articles on ecclesiastical subjects the writers do not conceal their convictions. The article on Baptism argues strongly in favor of affusion as well as immersion, adding: "Probably the mode varied even in apostolic times." After referring to the principles of "modern Baptists," it is added: "It is certainly scriptural to [baptize] the children of believers." The article Bishop is in the main fair, but Anglicans will note, with reference to Timothy's ordination, that while I Tim. 4:14 is twice referred to, no reference is made to 2 Tim. I:6. James was the "head of the board of elders" at Jerusalem, and not an apostle. Under Elder, Calvin's distinction between "ruling" and "teaching" elders is doubted. Under Laying on of Hands the omission of all reference to the related passages, Acts 8:17; 19:6, and Heb. 6:2, is unaccountable.

Only a few articles on subjects of biblical theology are inserted. For example, there is one on Faith, but not on Hope or Love; there is one on Sin, but not on Righteousness.

Some errors of the press are unavoidable; but there are more serious oversights. In the three-column article New Testament, besides misprints, we note the following: "In many cases these versions and [patristic] citations were made from manuscripts not now existing" is an understatement. That "uncials" were "written without breathings or accents" is true only of the earlier ones. The date of the facsimile of Codex B is given as 1868 instead of 1890, and the lacuna in Hebrews is said to be 9:14-28 only. As to Codex D, a false impression is given by the statements that Beza "found" it in the monastery at Lyons, and that it is "dated" in the sixth century. called "Alpha," and the manuscript is said to have been obtained in 1844 and 1859, although the New Testament portion was not found until the latter date. The division of the New Testament into verses is ascribed to Stephens' Vulgate of 1555, instead of to his Greek 'Testament of 1551. It is most likely, however, that such inaccuracies as these are exceptional; and that the utility of the volume, as a convenient repository of biblical facts, is not seriously impaired by them. The articles in general, while condensed as they should be, are clear and readable.

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Gesenius' Hebrew Grammar. As edited and enlarged by E. Kautzsch, Professor of Theology in the University of Halle. Translated from the twenty-fifth German edition by the late Rev. G. W. Collins, M.A. The translation revised and adjusted to the twenty-sixth edition by A. E. Cowley, M.A. Oxford: At the Clarendon Press; New York: H. Frowde, 1898. Pp. xvi+2+598. \$5.50.

In Germany Gesenius' Grammar has long been the standard work for the use of students of Hebrew, and in this country it has practically displaced all others as a reference-book for advanced study. The general features in its history are known to American readers, and with the details of its arrangement and method they have become familiar as the successive editions in English dress have appeared. For over